Annual Report

Westhampton
Massachusetts

2000

ANNUAL REPORT

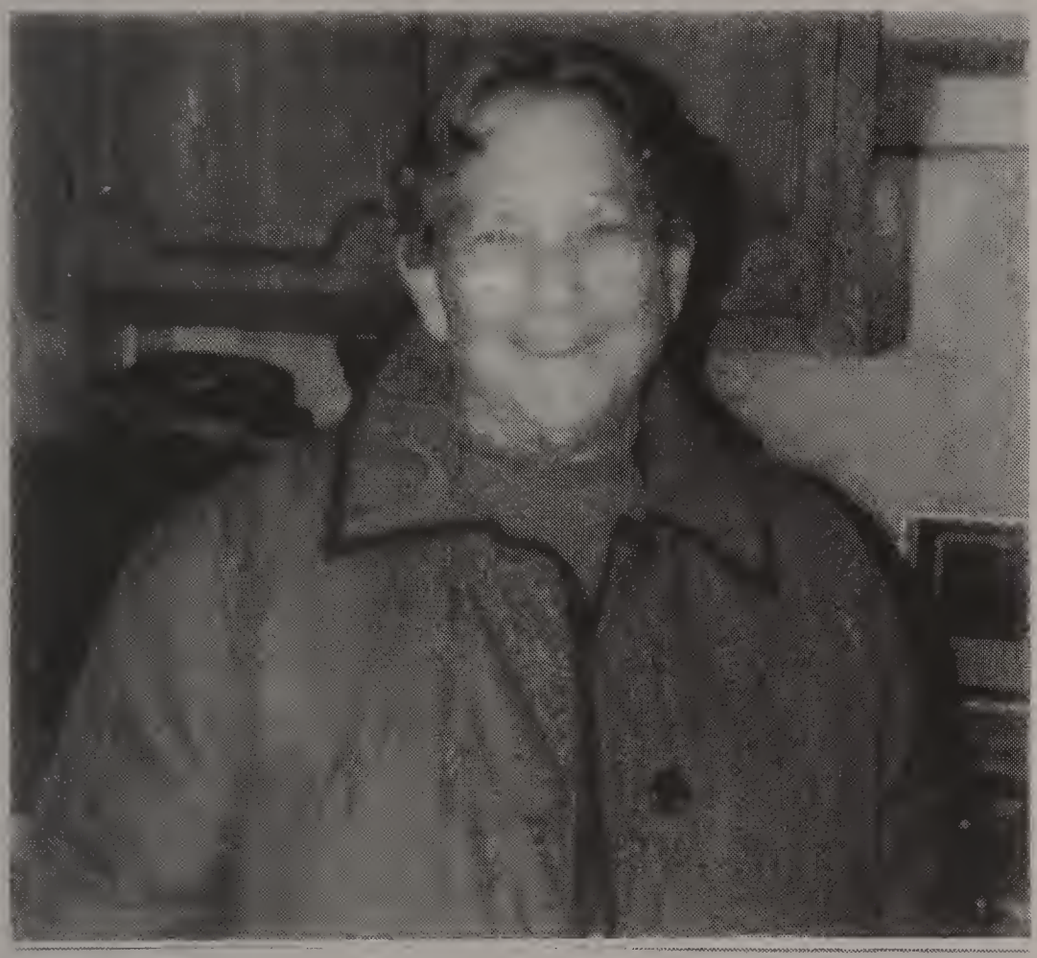
OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2000



DOROTHY M. MILLER

This year's town report is dedicated to Dorothy Miller for her many years of service to the Town of Westhampton. Dot was appointed to the Conservation Commission when it was established in 1974 and served as Secretary for her six years on that board. She has been an Almoner of the Street and Wright Fund since 1977. However, we all recognize Dot especially for her dedication to the Westhampton Memorial Library. She was appointed to the Library Committee of the Westhampton Congregational Church in1975 and served as Treasurer. Dot was instrumental in the transfer of the library from the Church to the Town. After the Library was transferred in 1983, Dot was elected a Library Trustee and served in that capacity, as well as Library Treasurer, until 1998. At that time, Dot stepped back, resigning as Treasurer, but continuing to serve as a Trustee, sharing her valuable knowledge and experience to keep the Library moving forward in its service to the Town. We thank Dot for all she has contributed in the past and know she will continue to serve for many years to come.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen meets alternate Mondays at 7:00P.M. at the Town Hall.

Highway Department Events and News:

Bill Tracy retired as of April 28th after many years of service (see article in last year's town report). After interviewing a number of applicants, David Blakesley, a member of the Department., was promoted to Superintendent. The opening created was later filled by hiring of Mike Robbins from a pool of 7 applicants.

Work on plans to rebuild South Rd. continued off and on all year, but because of lack of state funds (remember the Big Dig?) nothing was done as this project was not at the top of the list for the former county.

Legal efforts to transfer land titles on Stage Road for small pieces of land that changed hands in the reconstruction of the road continued all year but were not concluded because of the vague status of the County, which had title to the road before the County was ended by state fiat. A similar action to discontinue an ancient county road right of way near Lead Mine Rd and Rt. 66 was also worked on, but similarly was unfinished business at year's end.

A warrant for approximately $80,000 was placed on the agenda for Town Meeting to purchase a new truck for the Department. This was approved and the new truck arrived in the fall in time for use to plow snow.

Loudville Rd was repaved and a curve straightened on Laurel Hill Rd. The surface on Clapp Rd. was pulled up, reprocessed and laid down again.

Encroachment of the sand piles onto the public road at the Meehan gravel business has occurred. The Town has worked with the owner to move the material back to reestablish the Town right of way for the road.

Fire Department. News.

Following Bill Tracy's retirement as Fire Chief, the Department recommended that John Shaw be appointed as the new Chief. He was appointed to this position by the Selectmen. Twelve sets of breathing apparatus were purchased by the Town for the Fire Department. New phone lines for the Department were installed at the homes of Chief Shaw, Deputy Chief Buzzee and at the fire station. Mike Derouin was re-appointed as an EMT after recently moving back into Town.

Board of Health Business

The Town received a letter from the Easthampton Emergency Medical Services about the conditions they observed in a home on Southampton Rd during a call to that residence. This led to a visit by the Board of Health, during which a variety of serious health and safety risks were discovered. Discussions with the family on how to resolve the matter were unsuccessful and after a series of visits, including by state officials, the home was condemned and locked up.

Police Department Business

Chief Lovett reported that the new pagers being used by the Department are working well and should improve the ability of the officers to respond to calls. Some parking tickets issued at the Regional High School were appealed on the grounds that the posting was unclear. The appealed tickets were set aside and Chief Lovett was asked to clarify the intent of the posting and to work with the school to improve the signs.

A policy was developed on "Use of Personal Vehicles" for Town police officers concerning under what circumstances an officer may or may not use his or her personal vehicle in performance of his official duties.

Gary Rosenthal joined the Department as a new officer.

Salary Changes for Town Employees

Salaries for Town police were increased to $10 for regular officers, $11 for the Sergeant and $13 for the Chief.

Retiring Highway Superintendent Bill Tracy was given a $3000 bonus. The new Superintendent's salary was set at $45,000 during the hiring negotiations.

Town Property

A water pipe broke and flooded the Highway Department's boiler room. It was promptly repaired and the newly constructed area more rigorously insulated to prevent any reoccurrences.

The new office for the Highway Department. was wired by Smith School students under the supervision of the Wiring Inspector, John Lyons.

The old chlorinator building associated with the now defunct Town water supply was removed by the Town Highway Department, and the area was graded and reseeded.

About 20 road signs were vandalized and had to be replaced at a cost of about $450.

ATV riders entering the property of the old landfill have damaged the retaining wall of a settling pond and ridden on a

part of the landfill cap, although no serious damage was done. The property has been posted to exclude riders from the property. The property will be patrolled by the police.

The septic tank at the library was pumped and the driveway repaired. The wheel chair lift in the Town Hall has been inspected and re-permitted at a cost of $435.

The building at the Transfer Station for storage of "swap" items has been completed by the Highway Department. crew.

Mike Robbins will continue to act as the sign up person (and source of the key) for groups wanting to use the Town Hall. He also agreed to check the boiler daily in the winter, both for a fee of $1 per day.

A new copier was purchased for use in the Town Hall. The old machine was transferred to the Highway Department building for use there.

Permission was given to the 4-H club to use the cellar of the Town Hall for woodworking projects, as in past years.

School Related Business

The Board of Selectmen voted to provide an additional $9567 to the grade school, this being extra state aid that was received by the Town.

Tree Warden Business

Steve Holt attended a workshop on tree care. He obtained a state grant for planning trees around the Town Common from the "Releaf" Program. A public meeting was held to discuss locations for planting the trees and on a later date volunteers under Steve's supervision did the planting. Thanks go out to

Steve from the Town for his efforts.

Cell Towers Invade the Town

Requests to construct three cell towers were received: two on Rt. 66 near the Huntington Town line and one on Southampton Road near Outlook Farm. Permits are pending. No construction was begun in this year.

Conservation Commission Business

The Town endorsed the State's purchase of the development rights on 7000 acres of forest land from Hull Forest Products, of which several hundred acres are in Town. This was later done by the state. These areas will continue in commercial timber production, but are protected from being sold off and developed in the future.

A committee is working on creating a new Open Space plan for the Town.

Passing of the Cane

The Town's oldest resident, Arthur Coitnor, passed away. The cane was presented to Ralph Payson of South Road, who will turn 95 this year.

Housing for the Elderly

Lois Happe, the pastor of the Westhampton Congregational Church, presented the Town with a plan by a private non-profit group to seek public federal and state money to build low income housing for the elderly in Town. Discussions and a public information meeting aired issues associated with this proposal, noting that it could not be limited to Town residents and that definitions of eligibility would depend on sources of

money used in any future project. Following the public meeting, the BOS voted to have the HCDC submit a grant proposal for $30,000 to the state, to help clarify the pros and cons of building such housing in Town.

Appointments and Resignations

Stephen Malinowski resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Janice Tracy and Roy Van Driesche both ended their service on the Finance Committee. Richard Tillson was elected as Chair to replace Janice. Francis Cote was appointed to the Council on Aging. Christopher Norris was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Barbara Snook was appointed as an associate member of the Conservation Commission. Selectman Huston agreed to serve this year as the representative of the Town for negotiations with the Westhampton Teachers' Association at the grade school.

Legal Issues

Applications for two cell towers on Rt. 66 resulted in a ruling by the Planning Board that the first tower to summit a bona fide completed application could have the permit. This decision resulted in a series of suits against the Town that were unresolved at the end of the year.

The Town suit against Jaws concerning employee parking for the junk yard on non-junkyard property was finally resolved, in the Town's favor, with the dismissal of the appeal of the earlier judgment in the Town's favor.

Miscellaneous

The ambulance arrangement with Easthampton that has been providing coverage for Westhampton was formalized with a written agreement between the Towns.

An Ad Hoc committee was formed to investigate future needs for a new Highway Building, perhaps located at the old landfill. Member appointed by the BOS were David Blakesley, John Sackrey, Mike Diggins, Jim Meehan, Jim O'Connor, and Tom Jenkins. Michael Diggins was selected as chairman of this committee.

John Karakula was hired as the new custodian for the Town Hall to replace Mike Robbins, who has joined the Highway Department.

Complaints were received by the BOS concerning noise from ATVs and their being driven on public roads illegally on Hooker Rd. Chief Lovett was asked to investigate.

An All Boards meeting was held in September to discuss improvements to the Town's form used in requesting building permits.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Driesche, Chairman
Lydia C. Omasta
James Huston

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

One of the ways Westhampton officials work to solve problems and hold down costs is by collaborating with other cities and towns through the Hampshire Council of Governments. Our Town is represented on the Council By Karla Stefansson. She is a member of the Executive Committee and of the Health and Human Services Committee which oversees the Hampshire

Care skilled nursing facility in Leeds.

During FY 2000, a major task of the Council of Governments was renovation. Outwardly, the renovation involved making the historical Courthouse functional for contemporary needs while respecting its historical character. It is now wired for a high-speed broad-band telecommunications network and original antique courthouse furniture has been rescued from the attic, refinished, and put to use. At the same time, the elected Councilors and their staff have been retooling the organization, laying the groundwork for making e-government services available to any member town that wants to offer them to its citizens.

By participating in the Council's cooperative group purchasing program Westhampton saved an estimated $10,877. In addition, the town saved the administrative and advertising costs of going out to bid for items purchased through the Coop. This is particularly important in the Highway Department, as this satisfies the state requirement for proof that all purchasing laws have been complied with before distributing Chapter 90 road funds to the town.

Westhampton also participates in a second buying group sponsored by the Council. The Group Insurance Trust provides quality health insurance for the employees of local government Total premium savings are estimated at $23,393. Margaret Parsons represents Westhampton on the Insurance Advisory Board.

Over the past several years, the Council has been developing a plan to bring its experience in negotiating good prices on behalf of its member towns to all citizens. State statutes provide that town meetings may approve of "Municipal Aggregation" to gain more favorable electricity rates. Towns

voting approval will participate in a regional effort to negotiate reasonable electricity bills, taking advantage, once again, of the power of group purchasing and consolidated administration.

The Hampshire Regional School also participated in both of these programs, saving $37,232.22 on goods (The Westhampton 14.003% share is $5,224.), and $44,802 on total health insurance premiums (14.033% is $6,287.).

Westhampton also participates in regional planning for how to respond in the event there were an accident or fire involving hazardous materials. The federal government requires the town to have a plan in place, and can impose a fine of $27,500 for each day the town is not in compliance. By participating in this joint plan, we satisfy this requirement. Far more importantly, our fire department is better prepared to handle an incident of this sort.

Hampshire Care had another excellent year despite the extremely difficult environment that exists for skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities, running a modest surplus with a relatively high census for the year. Equally important, the facility maintains the highest level of nurse staffing per patient per day in Hampshire County. This higher staffing provides better patient care and Hampshire Care remains very highly rated by the Department of Public Health.

Roads designated "County roads," because they are important to more than one city or town, are maintained by the towns. Changes to their layout, however, must be approved by the Councilors. This regional authority ensures that the interests of all who use the road will be considered, including those who live in a town other than the one where the road is located. Engineering costs must be borne by parties requesting the change. Prior to 1999, ownership of the real property involved in roads

and road easements rested with the County, however, MGL Ch. 34B transferred title to most County property to the state. Westhampton used this procedure to discontinue two roads this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karla Stefansson, Councilor

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 2000 as follows:

BIRTHS	13
DEATHS	11
MARRIAGES	2

DOG LICENSES FOR 2000:

57 Males	at $3.00	$171.00
51 Spayed Females	at $3.00	$153.00
1 Female	@ $6.00	$ 6.00
4 Kennels	@ $10.00	$40.00
2 Kennels	@$50.00	$100.00
TOTAL		$470.00

TOWN FEES from Dog Licenses	109 @ $.75	$81.75
TOWN FEES from Kennel Licenses	6 @ $.75	4.50
TOTAL TOWN FEES		$ 86.25

HUNTING/FISHING/LICENSES/STAMPS

20 STAMPS	$100.60
6 FISHING LICENSES	$119.00

7 HUNTING/SPORTING LICENSES	$202.50
6 HUNTING/SPORTING LIC > 70 YRS	0.00
1 FISHING LICENSE > 70 YRS	0.00
40 TOTAL LICENSES/STAMPS SOLD	422.10
TOWN FEES COLLECTED	7.35

TOWN CLERK FEES COLLECTED	$476.00
TOWN FEES COLLECTED	$1222.00

REQUESTS FOR VARIANCE/SPECIAL PERMIT =	12
BUSINESS CERTIFICATES ISSUED =	2

POPULATION (2000 CENSUS)	1552
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	1058
DEMOCRATS	155
REPUBLICANS	127
LIBERTARIANS	3
OTHER POLITICAL DESIGNATIONS	4
UNENROLLED	769

The TOWN CLERK holds office hours on most MONDAY evenings from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Services provided include copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, issuing marriage licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, dog licenses, voter registration, special permit/variance applications and the issuance of house numbers for new construction. Notary service is also available. The current month's calendar indicating meeting dates and times for Town Boards is posted on the Town Clerk's door as well as the bulletin board outside of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stefansson, Clerk

I have examined the books of the Town Clerk and find this report to be accurate.

Charlotte R. Wood, Auditor

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2000 the Board of Assessors issued 78 abatements and exemptions: 25 Real Estate and Personal Property, and 53 Motor Vehicle; visited 89 properties undergoing new construction and/or remodeling; recorded 67 property transfers; and approved the placing of 23 additional parcels under the protection of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B.

FY2000 was a year that the Town of Westhampton was required under state law to conduct a revaluation. With the help of Larry Labarbara, ASA, CWA, the Board of Assessors completed this revaluation. Westhampton's assessed value for FY2000 is $127,257,986: Real Estate - $106,679,300; Personal Property - $2,279,286; and Exempt - $18,299,400.

The tax rate was set in December of 2000 at $17.43 per $1000.00 of evaluation.

The Board of Assessors meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall. Please feel free to come up or call us at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Miller
Paul Nevins
Dolores Thornhill

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR
JULY 1, 1999 - JUNE 30, 2000

FY99 Farm Animal Excise		
Due 7/1/99	1870.08	
Collected	-1749.58	
Abatement	-23.00	
Due 6/30/00		97.50
FY90 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/99	99.15	
Due 6/30/00		99.15
FY91 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/99	143.52	
Due 6/30/00		143.52
FY92 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/99	257.28	
Due 6/30/00		257.28
FY93 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/99	111.30	
Due 6/30/00		111.30
FY94 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/99	140.40	
Due 6/30/00		140.40
FY95 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/99	315.01	
Due 6/30/00		315.01
FY96 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/99	555.54	
Due 6/30/00		555.54

FY97 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/99	581.00	
Due 6/30/00		581.00
FY98 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/99	1396.23	
Due 6/30/00		1396.23
FY99 Personal Property		
Committed	2634.37	
Collected	-308.42	
Due 6/30/00		2325.95
FY00 Personal Property		
Committed	38056.41	
Collected	-35303.31	
Abatement	-107.30	
Due 6/30/00		2645.80
FY92 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/99	30.66	
Due 6/30/00		30.66
FY93 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/99	60.20	
Due 6/30/00		60.20
FY94 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/99	4100.38	
Due 6/30/00		4100.38
FY95 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/99	856.01	
Due 6/30/00		856.01
FY96 Real Estate		

Due 7/1/99	1408.73	
Collected	-1214.59	
Due		194.14
FY97 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/99	32141.56	
Collected	-18336.07	
Due 6/30/00		13805.49
FY98 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/99	34952.31	
Collected	-18434.59	
Tax title	-135.20	
Due 6/30/00		16382.52
FY99 Real Estate		
Due 7/1/99	61654.44	
Collected	-40627.09	
Tax title	-137.60	
Refunds	888.04	
Due 6/30/00		21777.79
FY00 Real Estate		
Committed	1780352.16	
Collected	-1711172.35	
Abatements/Exemptions	-11531.75	
Refunds	2707.19	
Due 6/30/00		60355.25
1987 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	13.75	
Due 6/30/00		13.75
1988 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	367.92	
Collected	-21.25	

Due 6/30/00		346.67
1989 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	208.77	
Due 6/30/00		208.77
1990 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	530.94	
Due 6/30/00		530.94
1991 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	231.25	
Due 6/30/00		231.25
1992 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	252.09	
Collected	-9.17	
Due 6/30/00		242.92
1993 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	530.83	
Collected	-27.50	
Due 6/30/00		503.33
1994 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	902.30	
Collected	-10.83	
Due 6/30/00		891.47
1995 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	195.00	
Collected	-45.00	
Due 6/30/00		150.00
1996 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	940.10	
Collected	-183.75	
Due 6/30/008		756.35
1997 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	244.81	
Collected	-75.00	
Due 6/30/00		169.81
1998 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/99	380.77	

Committed	799.27	
Collected	-231.57	
Abated	-67.71	
Refunds	37.71	
Due 6/30/00		918.47

1999 Motor Vehicle Excise

Due 7/1/99	9004.50	
Committed	19104.85	
Collected	-27586.72	
Abated	-1473.30	
Refunds	1257.05	
Due 6/30/00		306.38

2000 Motor Vehicle Excise

Committed	120292.19	
Collected	-110148.50	
Abated	-2012.71	
Refunds	608.33	
Due 6/30/00		8739.31

Forest Products

Committed	540.49	
Collected	-540.59	
Due 6/30/00		0

Interest Collected - Real Estate	10973.33	
- Personal Prop.	5.19	
- Motor Vehicle	459.87	
		11438.39

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Blakesley, Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

GENERAL FUND

Balance July 1, 1999	$640545.54
Receipts	3331643.47
Disbursements	-3501568.99
Balance June 30, 2000	$470620.02

Bank Western Massachusetts Checking	2441.62
Bank Western Massachusetts Money Market	7550.58
Easthampton Savings Bank Collector	3908.70
Easthampton Savings Sweep	62048.31
Fleet Capital	58294.15
Fleet Money Market	160178.95
Fleet Deputy Collector	15056.56
MMDT General	60616.76
MMDTCultural Council	4391.57
MMDT Septic Grant	13385.62
Bank Western Massachusetts Septic	10378.10
Unibank	72369.10
Balance June 30, 2000	470620.02

TRUST FUNDS -MMDT

Charity	$3415.56
Cemetery	3737.44
Veterans	1488.01
Stabilization Fund	
Balance July 1, 1999	51350.84
Receipts	2571.36
Disbursements	-62.20
Balance June 30, 2000	45194.63
Total Trust	$53860.00
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	$524480.02

Interest earned - $44928.79

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTING OFFICER

JULY 1, 1999- JUNE 30, 2000

Cash on Hand July 1, 1999		
General	**640545.54**	
Stabilization	**42709.83**	
Trust Funds	**8641.01**	**$691896.38**

RECEIPTS

TAXES		
Property	$1814143.97	
Farm Animal Excise	1749.58	
Forest Products Tax	249.48	
In Lieu of Taxes	9800.04	
Motor Vehicle Excise	138339.29	
		1964282.36
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS		
Local Aid/Lottery	134738.00	
Highway Fund	36663.00	
Elections	99.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	274975.00	
Chapter 71 Transportation	8514.00	
SBAB Reimbursement	277312.00	
Loss of Taxes	5152.00	
		739521.00
GRANTS AND GIFTS		
Dog Refund	481.37	
COA - Federal	1200.00	
COA - State	2600.00	
Cultural Council	3800.00	
Conservation Grant	500.00	

Library Aid	2689.13	
Tree Gift	110.00	
		11380.50

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Licenses	486.00	
Plumbing Fees	1600.00	
Electrical Fees	1685.00	
Sanitation Fees	545.00	
Building Permits	17486.80	
Assessors	65.33	
Planning Board	120.00	
Board of Appeals	495.00	
Conservation Commission	1261.25	
Mark & Clear	340.00	
Town Clerk Fees	789.25	
Miscellaneous	5018,56	
		29892.19

POLICE

Motor Vehicle Fines	6765.00	
Parking Tickets	450.00	
Permits	1650.00	
Reports	37.00	
Domestic Violence Fund	50.00	
Revolving Fund	61806.75	
Revolving Fd Admin Fee	1011.05	
		71769.80

BOARD OF HEALTH

Septic Design	1350.00	
Licenses & Permits	725.00	
Perc Tests	3050.00	
Landfill Fees	27491.50	
		32616.50

REVOLVING FUNDS		
Dog Licenses	413.00	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	354.25	
Septic Repayment	6190.49	
Tax Collector Fees	4027.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	1676.00	
		12660.74
SCHOOLS		
Preschool Revolving	26900.00	
Technology Revolving	513.00	
School Building Use	1500.00	
Charter School	6784.23	
School Lunch State	576.56	
School Lunch Federal	4640.78	
School Lunch Sales	12493.88	
		53408.45
HIGHWAY		
Transportation Bond Issue	101714.68	101714.68
INTEREST		
On General Fund	28819.95	
On Taxes	11435.38	
On Charity Funds	193.64	
On Cemetery Funds	211.83	
On Veterans Trust	86.56	
On Stabilization	2484.80	
On Septic Grant	1587.46	
On Cultural Council	109.17	
		44928.79
AGENCY		
Meals Tax	40.12	
Gun Permits	1650.00	
Payroll Deductions	270349.70	
		272039.82
TOTAL RECEIPTS		$3334214.83

PAYMENTS

NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

TAX REFUNDS

Property Tax	3595.23	
Motor Vehicle Excise	1903.09	
		5498.32

AGENCY

Payroll Deductions	271235.70	
Meals Tax	40.12	
		271275.82

SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

Charter School	8469.00	
School Lunch	18135.80	
Preschool	27598.53	
Health Protection Grant	412.95	
		54616.28

SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

Cultural Council	2326.00
Council on Aging State	2600.00
Council on Aging Federal	1110.66
Highway Funds	81947.84
Town Hall Gifts	404.22
Tree Gift	110.00
Releaf Grant	974.00
Cemetery Gift	24091.98
Street & Wright	100.00
Police Revolving	60883.50
Gun Permits to State	1650.00
Septic Grant	16274.84

Tax Collector Fees	3822.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	1179.00	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	354.25	
Dog Licenses	413.00	
		198241.29

STATE & COUNTY ASSESSMENTS

Air Pollution Control	351.00	
RMV Non-renewal Surch.	380.00	
Pioneer Valley Planning	199.05	
FTRA	369.00	
County Tax	1495.00	
		2794.05
REFUNDS	939.00	939.00
VETERANS TRUST	62.20	62.20
TOTAL Non-Appropriation		533426.96
APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES		2968204.23
See Appropriation Report for Detail		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**3501631.19**

Cash on Hand July 1, 1999		
General	**470620.02**	
Stabilization	**45194.63**	
Trust Funds	**8665.37**	
		$524480.02

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons
Accounting Officer

APPROPRIATION REPORT FISCAL 2000

ACCOUNT	BALANCE 7/1/99	APPROPRIATION	TRANSFERS (IN OR OUT)	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE CLOSED	BALANCE TO F2001
COUNSEL FEES	0.00	10000.00		9014.18	985.82	
MODERATOR	0.00	150.00		150.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN SALARY	0.00	3200.00		3200.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN EXPENSE	0.00	3500.00	450.00			
Travel				682.16		
Dues				549.00		
Town Report				925.00		
Supplies/advertising				1711.78		
				3867.94	82.06	
SELECTMEN SECRETARY	0.00	2562.00		2562.00	0.00	
AUDITOR SALARY	0.00	150.00		150.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING OFF SALARY	0.00	8000.00		8000.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING EXPENSE	0.00	980.00				
Computer Contract				570.00		
Supplies/computer				119.60		
Dues				45.00		
Travel				0.00		
				734.60	245.40	

ASSESSORS SALARY	0.00	6200.00		6200.00	0.00	
ASSESSORS EXPENSE	1750.00	3180.00				
Dues/Travel				140.00		
Registry Transfer				138.50		
Revaluation				1137.50		
Data input				200.00		
Supplies				531.15		
				2147.15	307.85	2475.00
ASSESSORS SECRETARY	0.00	1150.00		1150.00	0.00	
TREASURER SALARY		8000.00		8000.00	0.00	
TREASURER EXPENSE	0.00	3000.00	300.00			
Computer Contract				600.00		
Bank Charges				812.98		
Software update				800.00		
Dues/travel				113.95		
Note fee				20.00		
Postage				370.40		
Supplies/equipment				582.67		
				3300.00	0.00	
TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	0.00	6150.00		6150.00	0.00	

TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE		3200.00			
Repairs/Equipment				57.50	
Postage/envelopes				1286.80	
Supplies				790.71	
Tax Bills				907.48	
Dues/Travel				103.00	
				3145.49	54.51
TOWN CLERK SALARY	0.00	5000.00		5000.00	0.00
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	0.00	2570.00	99.00		
Election Officers				1232.00	
Census				125.00	
Supplies/Printing				1182.90	
Dues/Travel				55.00	
				2594.90	74.10
CLERK BOARD REGISTRAR	0.00	60.00		60.00	0.00
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	0.00	260.00			
Dues				85.00	
Supplies				134.64	
				219.64	
					40.36
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	0.00	200.00		115.60	84.40
BRIDGES & RAILINGS	0.00	500.00		347.63	152.37

HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	0.00	2860.00	400.00			
Uniforms				1381.60		
Telephone				1218.88		
License Renewals				95.00		
Supplies				318.89		
Dues & Travel				188.00		
				3202.37	57.63	
HIGHWAY SALARIES	0.00	125500.00		123460.16	2039.84	
HOLIDAY PAY	0.00	4283.00		4156.40	126.60	
VACATION PAY	232.08	4810.00		3458.96	1583.12	
HIGHWAY MATERIALS	0.00	50000.00				
Clean Catch Basins				14262.50		
Road Surfacing				34531.95		
Brush mower				300.00		
				49094.45	905.55	
ROAD MACHINERY	0.00	20000.00				
Repairs				5942.30		
Parts/Supplies				10431.85		
Surplus property fee	0.00			85.00		
				16459.15	3379.91	160.94
ROAD MACHINERY FUEL	0.00	11300.00		9611.83	1688.17	

SNOW REMOVAL	0.00	42000.00	-1100.00			
Overtime				5402.60		
Winter Sand				10365.47		
Salt				12661.79		
Supplies/Repairs				1189.99		
Sander				4267.00		
				33886.85	7013.15	
ROAD MACHINERY BUILDINGS	0.00	5500.00				
Electricity				1139.24		
Heat				3251.97		
Supplies/Maintenance				669.09		
				5060.30	439.70	
HIGHWAY OFFICE	476.65	0.00	2700.00	3176.65	0.00	
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL H.S.	0.00	579796.00		579796.00	0.00	
VOCATIONAL	0.00	141168.00	-2300.00			
Tuition				89893.10		
Transportation				12700.00		
				102593.10	36274.90	
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1967.74	772460.00	6784.23	770684.10	2919.35	7608.52
See Elementary Report						
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SALARY	0.00	480.00		480.00	0.00	

LIBRARY	0.00	36409.00			
State Aid			1823.24		
Salary				24350.18	
Dues				30.00	
Utilities and Lawns				2822.95	
Books and Supplies				11029.11	
				38232.24	0.00
VETERANS	0.00	100.00			
Dues/flags				74.88	25.12
VETERANS AGENT SALARY	0.00	550.00		550.00	0.00
MEMORIAL DAY	0.00	100.00		33.00	67.00
CULTURAL COUNCIL		500.00		500.00	0.00
CEMETERY SALARY	0.00	4000.00		4000.00	0.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT		29200.00	1000.00		
Salary				25265.25	
Mileage				678.62	
Dues				350.00	
Utilities				1594.27	
WMLEC				250.00	
Equipment/Supplies				841.88	
Repairs/Maintenance				1219.80	
				30199.82	0.18

POLICE CRUISER	23865.00		23790.00	75.00	
CONSTABLE	1.00		0.00	1.00	
FIRE CHIEF	825.00		825.00	0.00	
FIRE DEPARTMENT	5400.00	400.00			
Dues			35.00		
Repairs			2310.87		
Supplies/Equipment			3436.28		
			5782.15	17.85	
FIRE EQUIPMENT	60000.00	2900.00	207.40		62692.60
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	300.00		0.00	300.00	
INSPECTOR SALARY	6500.00				
Building Inspector			4000.00		
Plumbing Inspector			795.00		
Sanitation Inspector			355.00		
Wiring Inspector			1095.00		
			6245.00	255.00	
CIVIL DEFENSE	1.00		0.00	1.00	
DOG OFFICER	1.00	500.00	176.90	324.10	
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	500.00		500.00	0.00	
HILLTOWN RESOURCE MGT.	4648.00		4647.15	0.85	

BOARD OF HEALTH SALARY		3900.00		900.00		
Perc tests				963.00		
				1863.00	2037.00	
BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE	0.00	34330.00	2300.00			
Salary				3717.00		
Hazardous Waste Removal				1214.50		
Oil Removal				400.00		
Metal Removal				950.00		
Trucking				11255.95		
Tipping Fees - Northampton				16470.30		
Engineer fees				350.00		
Utilities				552.42		
Stickers/Supplies				1716.47		
				36626.64	3.36	
LANDFILL CAPPING	343820.33					
Capping				281895.92		
Engineering				34289.38		
				316185.30		27635.03
TRANSFER STATION	34513.84	0.00	5000.00	27736.53		11777.31
SCHOOL LOAN		290000.00		290000.00	0.00	
LAMDFILL CAPPING LOAN		35000.00		35000.00	0.00	
TANK TRUCK LOAN		22000.00		22000.00	0.00	

LOADER LOAN	20792.00		20791.82	0.18	
HIGHWAY TRUCK LOAN	27500.00		27500.00	0.00	
TRANSFER STATION DEBT	3168.00		3167.30	0.70	
INTEREST LONG TERM DEBT	115647.00		115645.03	1.97	
INTEREST SHORT TERM DEBT	1.00		0.00	1.00	
INSURANCE & BONDS	31000.00				
Worker's Comp			5300.00		
Property & Casualty			17530.00		
Police Disability			2554.00		
Fire Disability			3066.00		
Bonds			1126.00		
			29576.00	1424.00	
TOWN OFFICES	12100.00	1200.00			
Custodian			1371.91		
Electricity			1704.94		
Telephone			932.57		
Water			386.34		
Copier			264.00		
Lawns			1055.19		
Fuel			1861.53		
Repairs/Improvements			395.42		
Roof on addition rear			4500.00		
Supplies			718.87		
			13190.77	4.23	105.00

COUNCIL ON AGING		1000.00		1000.00	0.00	
RECREATION		2000.00		1834.78	165.22	
HISTORICAL		200.00		200.00	0.00	
COUNTY RETIREMENT		53817.00		53817.00	0.00	
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS		9769.00		9769.00	0.00	
UNEMPLOYMENT		8400.00	-8300.00	0.00	100.00	
GROUP INSURANCE		70000.00	-450.00	68562.58	987.42	
MEDICARE		7000.00		6735.49	264.51	
LAND DAMAGE	2182.38	1.00		10.00	0.00	2173.38
RESERVE FUND		5000.00				
To Town Offices Account			-1200.00			
To Treasurer's Expense			-300.00			
To Police Department			-1000.00			
To Dog Officer Account			-500.00			
To Highway Office			-2000.00		0.00	
	384943.02	2753694.00	8706.47	2968204.23	64511.48	114627.78

BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 2000

ASSETS

CASH	470620.02
TAXES	
Levy of 2000	
Real Estate	60355.25
Personal Property	2645.80
Levy of 1999	
Real Estate	21777.79
Personal Property	2325.95
Levy of 1998	
Real Estate	16382.52
Personal Property	1396.23
Levy of 1997	
Real Estate	4829.64
Personal Property	581.00
Levy of 1996	
Real Estate	194.14
Personal Property	555.54
Levy of 1995	
Real Estate	856.01
Personal Property	324.36
Levy of 1994	
Real Estate	4100.38
Personal Property	140.40
Levy of 1993	
Real Estate	60.20
Personal Property	111.30
Levy of 1992	
Real Estate	30.66
Personal Property	257.28
Levy of 1991	
Personal Property	143.52
Levy of 1990	
Personal Property	99.15
Tax Title	1191.24
Motor Vehicle Excise	
Levy of 2000	8739.31
1999	306.38
1998	918.47
1997	169.81
1996	756.35

LIABILITIES

AGENCY	6249.89
GIFTS	
Cemetery Gift	3877.64
Town Hall Gift	95.79
TRUST INCOME	735.36
GRANTS	
Cultural Council	4391.57
St. Aid to Libraries	2689.13
Council on Aging Fed	480.00
Foundation Reserve	483.01
Technology	513.00
Chapter 53 – 37872	24835.39
Chapter 113-37161	3696.71
Chapter 127 – 38229	49138.91
Domestic Violence	50.00
Septic Loan Repaymt	20529.38
Septic Grant Interest	3234.34
REVOLVING FDS	
Landfill Revolving	1391.87
Landfill Closure	4045.00
Tax Collector Fees	205.00
Deputy Collector Fees	497.00
Preschool	7647.72
School Lunch	5044.43
School Building Use	1500.00
OVER ESTIMATES	63.00
RECEIPTS RESERVED	
Conservation Comm.	4305.18
Conservation Grant	500.00
Refunded Dog Tax	481.54
Sale of Town Property	106000.00
OVERLAYS	
1990	99.15
1991	143.52
1993	171.50

1995	150.00	1994	2813.34
1994	891.47	1995	1353.68
1993	503.33	1996	1456.59
1992	242.92	1997	2420.06
1991	231.25	1998	2188.45
1990	530.94	1999	9080.85
1989	208.77	2000	7175.21
1988	346.67		
1987	13.75	REVENUE RESERVED	
		Tax Title Revenue	1191.24
Farm Animal Excise	97.50	MVE Revenue	14009.42
		Farm Excise Revenue	97.50
State Aid to Highways	159617.85		
		SURPLUS	
Police Revolving Fund	7034.77	Surplus Revenue	361582.77
RMV Non-renewal	380.00	APPROPRIATIONS	
		Assessors Expense	2475.00
Re-Leaf Grant	974.00	Road Machinery	160.94
		Elementary School	7608.52
		Fire Equipment	62692.60
		Landfill Capping	27635.03
		Transfer Station	11777.31
		Town Offices	105.00
		Land Damage	2173.38
Total Assets	771091.92	Total Liabilities	771091.92

BALANCE SHEET - TRUST, INVESTMENT AND DEBT

TRUST CASH	53860.00	Street & Wright Fd.	2400.54
		Thayer Fund	1015.01
		Cemetery Funds	3737.45
		Stabilization	45194.63
		Veterans	1512.37
Total Assets	53860.00	Total Liabilities	53860.00
LONG TERM DEBT	2235000	New School Loan	1715000
		Highway Truck Loan	55000
		Landfill Capping Loan	385000
		Transfer Station Loan	80000
Total Long Term Debt	2235000		2235000

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 2001, the Finance Committee members and the end dates of their respective terms were:

Wallace Hlava	2001
Mark Thornhill	2001
Owen Bowman	2002
David Brown	2002
Karl Norris	2002
Lydia Omasta	2002
Priscilla Flynn	2003
Ellice Gonzalez	2003
Margaret Parsons	2003
Richard Tillson, Chairperson	2003

At the town elections in June, Priscilla Flynn, Ellice Gonzalez, Margaret Parsons, and Richard Tillson were elected for three year terms.

Reserve Fund transfers made in Fiscal 2000 were as follows:

Town Offices	$1200.00
Treasurer's Expense	300.00
Police Department	1000.00
Dog Officer	500.00
Highway Office	2000.00

As of December 31, 2000 the following Reserve Fund Transfers had been made for Fiscal 2001:

Selectmen's Expense	$ 571.00
Transfer Station Debt	19.00

Recommendations were made for Special Town Meetings to transfer moneys from available funds to cover deficits in various accounts in Fiscal 2000:

Selectmen's Expense	$450.00
Fire Department	400.00
Fire Equipment	2900.00
Highway Administration	400.00
Highway Office	700.00
Board of Health Expense	2300.00
Transfer Station	5000.00

The Finance Committee met with the various individuals, boards, and committees to hear budget requests for Fiscal Year 2001. In an effort to stay within the limits of Proposition 2½, reductions of $ 31,873 were recommended. In addition, the Finance Committee recommended that the $ 65,000 cost of a requested Highway Department truck be voted subject to approval by the town of a capital override. Further, the Finance Committee proposed that the town should add $14,000 to the Committee's recommendation for the town's share of the HRHS budget subject to an override of Proposition 2½.

At Annual Town Meeting held on May 13, 2000, a $ 6214 deficit budget was voted. Two override questions were submitted to voters on the election ballot June 5, 2000: $14000 for Hampshire Regional and $79,600 for the highway truck. Both were approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Tillson, Chairperson

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health continues to meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Town Hall.

On behalf of the town, the Board would like to extend its gratitude to John Sackrey for a decade of serving on the Board of Health. His commitment and common-sense were a great asset.

The Board welcomes Barry Brandow to our team

This year the Board of Health spent a good deal of time with its first serious housing problem. The result was the condemnation of the house at 95 Southampton Rd for housing code violations.

The Municipal Transfer Station has seen the addition of a new pole-shed, constructed by the Highway crew. Thanks to their hard work the town has a new building to serve its recycling needs. The Transfer Station accepted 386 tons of waste material last year. Of that tonnage 119 were diverted as recyclables or around 30%. (This percentage is down from 31% the previous year and compares to a state average of 38%.) At current disposal rates this converts to a savings of over $7,700. Residents purchased over 330 disposal permits last year. They recycled 125 gallons of paint and over a ton of electronic materials.

This year the Board has also begun in earnest the arduous task of creating a data base of all its septic records. Since these records are often misplaced by homeowners when property is transferred, it is important that the town can provide these records readily for residents.

In other business the Board issued 10 septic repair permits and 9 septic permits for new construction, 12 installers permits,

witnessed perc tests, conducted camp inspections and responded to other health complaints.

Submitted respectfully;

Tom Martin
Ken Smith
Barry Brandow

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

Since 1989 the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative has been operating as a unique regional municipal recycling and waste management organization. Created, operated and funded by it's eleven member Towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. All HRMC member Towns operate small transfer stations which offer comprehensive recycling and waste disposal services to all Town residents. The HRMC's main goal is to assist the Towns in developing a first quality recycling and waste management program for their Town and the entire region.

Here are some of the things the HRMC **does on your** behalf;

- Monitor area recycling and waste management efforts by working with local officials on recycling and solid waste planning efforts and goals.

- Represent the 11 member communities in regional and state wide efforts such as the Springfield MRF Advisory Board as well as participate in State and Regional Planning efforts sponsored by the DEP and EPA.

• Work with the HRMC Board of Directors (2 from each Town) to manage HRMC programs as well as manage HRMC budget. (Note: This is our sixth level funded budget in a row !)

• Plan and coordinate region wide programs such as the Hazardous Waste Collection. Paint Recycling Collection. Electronics Recycling Collection, Tire Collections, Salvation Army Textile Recycling, Compost Bin Distribution and Recycling Set Out Bins Distribution programs.

• Provide outreach and education programs to HRMC area schools, residents and other community groups.

• Obtain cash and equipment grants on behalf of its member Towns and through them be able to explore and plan new programs such as the electronics recycling program, battery and universal waste recycling and develop a SMRF roll off box repair program for the entire HRMC region.

The HRMC is here to serve your Towns needs. Feel free to contact us on our Community Help Line any time at (413) 268 - 3845 or email us at hrmc@crocker.com if you have any questions.

Eric Weiss
Administrator

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mission Statement: The Westhampton Conservation Commission is responsible for implementation of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Protection Act. These Acts are intended to protect public and private ground water supplies, foster flood control and storm damage prevention, prevent pollution, and protect fisheries and wildlife habitat. The Commission strives to ensure Westhampton property owners may develop and enjoy their property within state regulations through educational presentations, onsite property visits and twice monthly public meetings.

Operations:

Screening site visits for building permit applications	9
Site visits for building permit applications	10
Public hearings conducted	16
Requests for Determination processed	7
Notices of Intent processed	6
Beaver dam evaluations	4
Violations/complaints/investigations	3
Timber harvest applications reviewed	6
353 acres harvested	

Special investigations

1. Complaint: failed silt fence on Kings highway.
   Status: repairs completed

2. Complaint: wetlands damaged on Laurel Hill Rd.
   Status: repairs in process

3. Complaint: groundwater and soil contamination at automotive parts recycling facility. Status: no violation, no action required.

4. Complaint: water resource contamination resulting in Department of Environmental Management stop work order. Status: restoration completed

5. Complaint: groundwater and soil contamination at automotive parts recycling facility. Status: investigation underway

Special Conservation-Related Activities:

1. Open Space Plan: under the leadership of Tom Cleary, an Open Space Plan Committee has nearly completed a Plan that identifies the town's natural resources and identifies resources worthy of conservation and improvement. The Plan will be submitted for approval by the town and submitted to the State for approval. When approved it will make the town eligible for state grants for open space acquisition and improvement.

2. Peck Land Trust/Hull Forest Products Company: under the leadership of Barbara Snook and Tom Jenkins public education and advocacy was provided regarding state purchase of conservation rights on 93 acres in Westhampton, part of a 7000 acre offering. Purchasing conservation rights lowers taxes on the land, making it possible for the landowner to maintain the land in an un-developed state. Letters of support and petitions were provided to other Conservation Commissions, the Select Board and the involved state agencies.

3. Microwave towers: two applicants proposed construction of microwave towers within the town. The Commission was able to negotiate alterations to the plans which moved construction activities and microwave tower placement outside regulated areas.

4. In-service education: efforts continued to improve the knowledge and skills of Commissioners. In-service training topics included

- "Bordering Vegetative Wetland Delineation"-Bob LaPalme
- "Best Logging Practices"-Steve Holt
- "Procedures for Enforcement of Orders of Conditions"-Bob LaPalme
- "Threats to Bird Populations by Microwave Towers"-Barbara Snook
- "Title V Requirements and Board of Health Procedures for Implementation"-Ken Smith & Board of Health members

Membership:
Chairperson: Larry Cervelli
Members: Walter Brown, Steve Holt, Tom Jenkins, Bob LaPalme, Dan Pickett, Nancy Whitley
Associate Member: Barbara Snook

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Cervelli, Chairperson
Bob LaPalme, Secretary

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

The year 2000 started off as a difficult year for me. The spring cleanup was normal. We went into this year with a new tractor which took some getting used to, but was greatly appreciated as two-thirds of the burials this year took place before Memorial Day. The Cemetery shed required some structural work to support the weight of the new tractor. At the same time, the doors were replaced with a new steel overhead door. The mowing season was long and demanding this year, as we all know. The string trimmer had to be replaced towards the end of the season. The water tanks were relocated and benches installed by a group of volunteers headed by Ginny Merriam. I am grateful for their efforts on this improvement. Thanks also go to the Westhampton Fire Department for keeping the water tanks full. Everyone is reminded to keep their annual plantings in line with the headstones and within 14 to 16 inches for mowing purposes. I've also gone to a flat rate for overgrown shrub removal, which basically covers materials only, due to our new piece of equipment. We are also looking into future expansion which may be started this year at the North end of the Cemetery.

There were:

8	Burials
9	Cremations
9	New lots
3	Foundations

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward C. Fisher
Cemetery Caretaker

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

May 1 2000 to March 1 2001

First a few words about Bill Tracy. Bill retired from the Highway Department the last day of April 2000 after 20 years as Highway Superintendent. He did an excellent job running the department, updating both the equipment and the roads. He brought much needed stability to the department. I will miss his even temperament and sense of humor. Good luck, Bill.

After much thought, I decided to apply for and was offered the Superintendent's job. Here I am. Peter Montague moved into my old position as foreman and Jerry continues to be a faithful employee. In May, the Board of Selectmen advertised for a new highway worker and Levi "Mike" Robbins of Reservoir Road was chosen to be the newest member of the Department.

In June, a new 11 ft. Larochelle snowplow was purchased to replace our oldest badly worn plow.

At annual town meeting, May 13, 2000, it was voted to buy a new dump truck to replace our 1981 Ford L9000 that had served us faithfully, but was very tired and becoming unsafe. After carefully reviewing 3 bids submitted, Sterling was chosen as the truck that would best suit our needs. In July, a 2001 Sterling Model L9500 was ordered. It arrived December 22 and has had a lot of use from then until the time of this writing, plowing snow and sanding. We hope it will last a long time as did the truck it replaced.

Also at annual town meeting, a five member highway building needs committee was formed and I am very pleased to have them support our claims that we have completely outgrown

our small 3 bay garage. Currently we have 3 large expensive pieces of equipment that are left outside because they won't fit inside, plus many smaller pieces that there just isn't room for. This is bad for the equipment, not to mention trying to maintain and repair it during cold winter weather.

It appears that the second bridge on Kings Highway will finally be replaced starting in Spring 2001. The State contract was awarded to J.H. Lynch of Rhode Island.

The status of South Road has not changed, as we all know by driving over it. I don't claim to understand it all, but at this time the plans for reconstructing it have not been approved by the Massachusetts Highway Department. For whatever reason, they keep sending them back to the engineer for minor changes. I believe they are stalling because they don't have the money to fund the project.

In June, we shimmed and overlaid all of Loudville Road.

Early summer was spent finishing up projects started the previous year. First the transfer station building was completed, and a railing installed around the open containers.

A short section on Laurel Hill Road was completed by installing two catch basins to control surface water. Also, we brought the roadbed up and covered it with processed gravel as a travel surface. Landscaping was done on both sides to control erosion.

Rhodes Road was finished by bringing it up to grade with a mixture of millings from Rt. 66 and processed gravel. Landscaping was done where needed to control erosion.

The surface on Clapp Road had become so badly broken

up that it was nearly impossible to plow, so we brought in a reclaimer, ground it up and recycled it. Processed gravel was added to reshape the road and a new oil and stone surface was put down. This should take care of this road for a number of years.

We are nearing the end of our second brush mower agreement with Western Mass Electric Co. A new agreement in the works requires a new "lead town," and Westhampton has been chosen to be that town. This means some extra work on our part, but at the end of the agreement, the mower and tractor will be ours for one dollar. A great deal any way you look at it. This agreement has been invaluable to all towns involved in keeping roadside brush under control.

Nearing the end of my first year as Superintendent, I continue to find the administrative part of this job challenging. But with the support of the Board of Selectmen, along with Margie Parsons' endless knowledge and willingness to help anytime, it has been a fun and rewarding experience.

And I also want to thank Peter, Jerry and Mike for their dedication and hard work. I feel fortunate to have such a well rounded crew.

Respectfully submitted,

David Blakesley
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY BUILDING COMMITTEE

We, the members of the Westhampton Highway Building Needs Committee, are pleased to submit this preliminary report on our assessment of town needs.

Our first duty was to determine what the town has, and then to assess possible future needs. The present highway department building is a three bay garage measuring 30 feet deep by 40 feet wide with an attached boiler room and office. Also on the same property is a salt shed. The department also uses two sheds located at the cemetery to house the smaller, portable, tools and equipment.

Located at the present highway garage is the following equipment and it's current status.

Three heavy trucks:

1. 2001	$ 83,000	Outside
2. 1997	104,000	Outside
3.1989	60,000	Inside*
1 loader	100,000	Inside*
1 backhoe	60,000	Inside*
1 grader	60,000	Outside
2 removable sanders		Outside
1 intrigal sander		Outside
4 snow plows		Outside**
1 Road sweeper		Outside

* only two inside at any one time

** No vehicle with a plow can be stored inside because of length.

As you can see by this list, the town has invested over a half million dollars into the equipment our highway department uses to maintain our roads. Some of the dollar amounts would more than double when the older equipment needs to be replaced at today's costs.

What is unfortunate when one reads this list, is the amount of equipment that is stored outside. A fact, that few towns people know about, is that most of the equipment is either to long to fit in the existing bays, or to tall to fit under the garage doors.

Another problem is that during winter, a truck with a plow will not fit inside the garage, making winter maintenance more difficult and ultimately, more expensive. This committee is confident that town residents will understand the benefits of storing a one hundred thousand dollar truck inside.

Our next task was to determine what size and type of construction. The latter was the easiest to decide. We are proposing a metal building on four-foot high concrete walls. We chose this type for both its economical construction cost and for its future maintenance and upkeep. Next was to decide how big. We didn't want to propose too big and make it unrealistic, nor did we want it to small and have to come back to the town in 5-10 years to request more money for an addition. What we are proposing is a building 60 feet deep by 160 feet long. This would include an administration area at one end with 9 garage bays. This would allow 6 bays for equipment parking and 3 bays for small equipment storage. The 60-foot depth would also allow for tool benches and hand tool storage up front. At this time we have acquired two budget numbers for this building, both estimate being identical at 60 dollars per square foot. This translates to an approximate cost of $576,000. We feel confident this number could be used for budget planning purposes.

Although some may feel this building sounds oversized, we are looking long term. The size of equipment is always increasing, as is our roadway system.

Our next dilemma was, as realtors put it, location, location, location. With the size building we are proposing, the site locations are limited. With the brook that runs behind the present building, the required buffer zone from a wetland would make this site impossible unless part of the fire station was affected. Our next thought of town owned land was the town transfer station. A preliminary site survey and walk through led us to believe there is plenty of land, even for future expansion,

more distance that required from nearby wetland, and preliminary approval from abutters of neighboring properties. With all of the positives of the transfer site, the committee felt that this was by far our best location for the new building.

One last thought of the committee was to possibly address the future today. The construction of a new highway department building located at the transfer station would free up useable space at the present building for fire and police. The suggestion to construct a town office complex on the highway department building could help to reduce some of the overcrowding at the town hall. Since the cost of the addition as an office would be minor as compared to the overall project cost and that cost might be offset by the funds from the old elementary school sale, it appears to be an avenue worth investigations.

In conclusion, the purpose of our committee was to investigate the need for a new highway department building. We are all in complete agreement. How can we afford not to ??????

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Diggins, Chairman
Tom Jenkins
Jimmy Meehan
Jim O'Connor
John Sackrey

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department and Firefighters Association had a very active year 2000. The department reported only one structure fire; saved by the quick 911 call, members timely response, their quick thinking, and good weather conditions. The additional 44 calls are detailed at the end of this report.

The department applied for and received a $1,800 Safe Grant to be used in the schools for fire education. The department members will continue to give fire safety programs at our Elementary school, and with this new grant we will be able to expand this program. We also applied for a state grant for safety equipment, which we expect to receive in early 2001, to upgrade our pagers and portable radios along with other safety equipment. Thank you to the members who helped research and write these grant applications.

In June we received our new protective clothing and SCBA equipment. I am pleased to report that all members now have NFPA approved coats, bunker pants, hoods, hoots, and helmets. We also have twelve new SCBA units with pass devices, which help keep us safe. Danger is always present when we respond to a call and we appreciate that the residents of Westhampton voted the money for such equipment. A special thanks to retired Chief Richard Tracy and John Zimmerman for the countless hours it took to complete the purchase. Their hard work allowed us to get the best equipment possible for our money.

The Association donated funds to purchase a new 3 inch 1,000 foot hose for the trucks, portable lights for two trucks, chimney fire equipment, and chimney cleaning (call us in the fall) equipment.

Members of the department also respond with EMT's as First Responders when needed. We have approved two landing zones for Life Flight in the event we ever need to bring them in.

A new phone system is in place to handle NON-EMERGENCY calls. The number 529-7181 rings at the fire station and at two other locations. There is an answering machine on the system that is checked daily.

In May, Chief Richard Tracy and Deputy Chief Ken Blow retired from the department. The Town, Family, Friends, Dignitaries, and Fire Department members both local and statewide attended a picnic given in honor of their many years of service. It was a great evening of food, dance, fireworks (through the fog), and friendship as we all wished them a happy retirement. Their years of service and dedication to the Town of Westhampton, along with the knowledge that they take with them, can never be replaced. The members voted to make Bill and Ken Honorary Members of the fire department.

In May, we reorganized. The officers are as follows:

Chief John F Shaw Jr.
Deputy Chief Wayne Buzzee
Deputy Chief Lee Douchkoff
Deputy Chief John Bridgman
Captain Peter Montague
Captain Steve Holt
Captain Susan Harrison
Captain Bill Jablonski

There are an additional twenty firefighters in the department. During the year the department accepted the resignation of William Webster, and accepted the reappointment of Mike Derouin as a Firefighter / EMT.

Members of the department donate countless hours in order to keep up their fire fighting skills. They must continue to take training classes on the equipment and apparatus. Many hours are spent doing equipment inspection and upkeep, chimney cleaning, pool filling, fire drills, classroom instruction, and other tasks. This year the members completed the new meeting room located over the station. This included installing a new floor, insulation, wallboard, and updating electrical and heating. The walls were painted by Boy Scout David Koski - thank you David.

The members wish to thank those who gave donations to the Association in memory of a loved one, or with a note of thanks for our efforts. I want to thank the members of the department for the tremendous amount of time and dedication given to the Town of Westhampton. I want to thank you, the residents, for all the support you have shown us.

Fire calls in 2000:

In service	6	Motor vehicle fire	3
Structure fire	1	First responder calls	18
Chimney fire	3	Mutual aid	5
False alarm	9	Downed wires	2
Brush fire	8	Odor investigation	2
Carbon monoxide	2	Missing person	3

Respectfully submitted

John F. Shaw Jr., Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

During the year of 2000 and in previous years, the Police Department has continued to provide the residents of Westhampton with professional and the most expedient service possible. The Westhampton Police Department currently has a total of six Officers. One of the Officers is a Special, who would be available for School functions and other detail work. All other Officers are available for patrols and Emergency calls through our 911 dispatch Center. All the Regular Officers who are available can respond to Emergency 911 calls through our paging system. All Business calls to the Westhampton Police Department should go through the 527-6154 number, and all emergency calls through 911.

Gun permit applications, unless otherwise posted, will be taken on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

I would like to thank the Officers who respond to emergencies at all hours for their unselfish and dedicated service to the Department and the Town of Westhampton.

POLICE CALLS FOR 2000

Accidents	35	Vandalism	13
Fire/Ambulance assists	8	Missing person	2
Arrests	6	Suspicious car/person	7
Assistance	14	Trespass	4
Housebreaks	1	Summons	19
Larceny/B&E	5	Warrants	3
Burglar alarms	36	Assault & battery	1
Stolen car/plate	1	Suicide	0
Animal calls	37	Information calls	434
Domestic violence	13	Sexual assault	0
Drug related	2	Shots fired	2
911 Hang-up	21	911 Officer call outs	215

Moneys turned in to the Treasurer:

Gun permits	$ 3300.00
Court fines	$6765.00
Insurance reports	$ 37.00

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence R. Lovett
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE SANITATION INSPECTOR

There were 22 septic systems installed or upgraded in 2000. Some were tight tanks. Some were tanks or leaching systems upgrades only.

Anyone installing a new or upgraded system should make sure they get a certificate of compliance from the inspector when the work is finished.

Respectfully submitted,

Stillman G. Brooks
Sanitation Inspector

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

Permits issued 1999:

One Family	11
Two Family	1
Additions	7
Renovations	6
Basement Rooms	3
Above Ground Pool	4
Inground Pool	1
Decks	7
Garages	1
Siding	2
Sheds	9
Signs	0
Windows	4
Reroof	12
Barns	4
Wood Stoves	4
Chimneys	2
Demo Barns	1
Demo garage	2
	81

A total of $12,214.90 was taken in from Building Permits at an estimated value of $2,430,212.90.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Pietraszkiewicz
Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging has enjoyed a very active and productive year in 2000, with a variety of services and activities made possible by town, state and federal funds, and by the combined efforts of many volunteers.

In June we welcomed Francis Cote as a new member of our board, filling the vacancy left by the death of Mervyn Morse in October of 1999.

We were deeply saddened in the fall by the death of Janet Averill, who had volunteered for many years at our annual flu clinic. With the assistance of Mary Montague and Mary Powers, 120 flu shots were given in October.

The average attendance at our monthly luncheons has continued to increase in 2000. As always, our May luncheon with the fourth graders, our July picnic at the home of Ed and Jean Alward, and our Christmas luncheon with the Southampton COA as our guests proved very successful.

The Hilltown Elder Network (HEN), continued this year, providing 14 seniors with just under 1000 hours of light housework and yard work. Olga Hathaway is the new coordinator, replacing Eleanor Miller who has served in that position since HEN was begun in 1992. Many thanks, Eleanor, for a job well done.

We continued our contract with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority. Under this program, with Charles Ognibene as local dispatcher, 8 volunteer drivers gave a total of 364 hours of service and drove 4497 miles. Fifteen Westhampton seniors received this one-on-one service free of charge.

Our home repair program, coordinated by Edgar Alward, has provided assistance to 15 Westhampton households.

The COA continued its support of our local "SALT" Council, chaired by Eleanor Miller. A most successful project in 2000 was the etching of ID numbers on car and truck windows to aid in the recovery of stolen vehicles, and also to lower the owner's insurance cost. This service was offered free of charge to all seniors. Non-seniors paid a minimal fee. The SALT Council also joined the COA in sponsoring the "Potato Bar" in October.

New this year was an extremely successful garden tour held on June 24. Organized and supervised by Frank and Olga Hathaway, the town included six Westhampton gardens, each unique and beautifully kept. Over 50 people attended, and we hope to repeat this event in 2001. Proceeds from the garden tour, and from a "Potato Bar" supper in October made it possible to schedule two bus trips. In June we visited Elizabeth Park in West Hartford, CT, and in October toured the National Plastics Museum in Leominster, MA.

Other activities and services included publication of our quarterly Newsletter, edited by Edgar Alward, take-out meals each month, blood pressure checks, get-well and friendship cards to all town seniors, and companionship for home-bound elders if needed.

As always, we are grateful for the interest and support given to us by our town and school officials throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Kelley, Chair
Francis Cote
Terri Derouin
Sally Lawton
Louise Marchand
Charles Ognibene
Lydia Omasta

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Blacksmith Shop Museum was open to the public on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M., Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The hosts were members of the Historical Commission and Friends of the Blacksmith Shop.

We held the 7th Annual Westhampton Blacksmith Shop and Museum Chuck Wagon Barbecue on August 26th with Outlook Farm's Brad Morse putting on another great meal. Our thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success.

We'd like to welcome Barb Fuller as our newest commission member and say a big thank you to Tom Jenkins, our outgoing member.

For all those who made financial or material donations, we thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Braastad
Irene Montague
Dan Krug
Bev Derouin
Barb Fuller

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

In 2000, the Westhampton Memorial Library was able to expand its staff and its hours to offer patrons significantly enhanced services.

The library is overseen by a six-member board of trustees, elected by town residents to serve for three-year terms. The current trustees are Dorothy Miller, first elected in 1975; Louise Montague, 1995; Victoria Yoshen and Margot Cleary, 1997; Hilary Nolan, 1998; and Ann Tracy, 2000. The officers are Margot Cleary, chair; Victoria Yoshen, treasurer; Hilary Nolan, secretary; and Ann Tracy, Friends liaison.

The trustees meet in the library on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Their duties include overseeing the budget, the library director and the upkeep of the building.

The library is staffed by a full-time director, Carolyn Keating, who continues to oversee the library's operations with a high degree of professionalism. This year the library reorganized its personnel and hired Andrea Belanger as staff assistant in June, responsible for performing general duties and specialized services as well as for overseeing the children's program. Betsy Koziol left the position of children's librarian but continues to serve as custodian. Mary Anne Sarafin served as clerk for the first six months of the year, prior to our reorganization.

In addition to our paid staff, the library has a group of volunteers who have taken on important tasks such as staffing Saturday morning hours, assisting with the summer reading program, checking out books, helping with bookmobile deliveries and maintaining the gardens.

As always, we are grateful to the people who support the library through donations of cash or other gifts.

There are 808 card holders at the library. Total circulation for 2000 was 15,262 items, broken down into these categories: 9,556 books, 3,702 videotapes, 964 magazines, 990 books on audiotape, 28 museum passes, 18 CDs, and 4 in the "other" category. We obtained 452 interlibrary loans. Our collection

consists of 8,977 items, or 6.11 items per capita. We circulated 10.64 items per capita in 2000 and had an average of 190 visitors to the library each week.

There were 44 programs for children in 2000, including regular preschool story hours and after-school craft sessions; attendance at these programs totaled 852. We now encourage parents to remain downstairs during story hour in order to provide the children with an opportunity to practice social and listening skills. The new floor chairs, purchased with Friends' money, helps with this task.

Thirty-seven children completed this year's Summer eading program. The program was supported by the Friends of the Library and by a grant from the Westhampton Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Rediscovering Westhampton program was also funded by the Cultural Councils. Events included several nature programs devoted to snakes, mushrooms and astronomy. An adult reading group continues to meet monthly. The 13 adult programs sponsored by the library in 2000 drew 191 people.

This year's staffing changes have allowed us to enhance library services in a number of ways: be open on Tuesday afternoons; begin an inventory of our collection; prepare to put our catalog online; have one person responsible for the development of the children's collection; have two people staffing the library during some open hours; and have full service available during open weekday hours, including interlibrary loan services.

The public-access computer now has a broadband connection to the Internet. We purchased a second computer for staff use with a combination of town and trust money. This allows staff to work while the public-access computer is in use or when a meeting is in progress in the nonfiction room. We continue to assist students with homework and research projects, directing them to information in our holdings as well as on the Internet. Keeping our collection current with the Massachusetts public school curricular changes, as well as with the needs of

students attending charter and private schools, is a continuous challenge.

Recreational reading remains popular in Westhampton. Forty-six percent of the items checked out this year by adults and children were fiction books. Even as we attempt to keep pace with changing information, we remain committed to providing residents a good read, and to helping patrons discover good books.

A challenge for the year 2001 is joining the CW/MARS system. Partially grant-funded, this will bring our library catalog online for all to see. Our card holders will then be able to check their records from home. They will also be able to request items from any other Massachusetts library and have them sent to the Westhampton library via the twice-weekly Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS) delivery service. Another challenge will be to adjust to changes in bookmobile services. Due to budget cuts, WMRLS will now purchase only books on tape, videotapes, large-print books, science fiction, mysteries and materials for children.

The Friends of the Library group, chaired by Cindy Tillson, continues to grow. The third annual plant and book sale in May was a resounding success, despite rainy weather that forced the sale into the Town Hall. The group continues to send a quarterly newsletter to all homes in Westhampton. The Friends made a major financial contribution to the library in 2000 by funding a new heating and cooling system at a cost of approximately $6,000. We are grateful for the dedication of the Friends group. They are a wonderful example of volunteerism.

Other major improvements included interior and exterior painting of the entire building. The trustees are committed to ensuring that the library is well-maintained, and an attractive component of the town center.

The building is used as a meeting space on a regular basis by several groups in Westhampton, including the Friends of the Library, the Conservation Commission, the Open Space Committee and the Finance Committee.

The Westhampton Memorial Library's budget request for

the coming year was determined after careful examination of our current needs as well as our long-range goals. We are hopeful that the town will continue to support the services that the library provides to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Cleary, Chair

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY TREASURER

July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Anonymous Gift Account	16132.00
Easthampton Money Market	7553.17
Florence NOW Account	425.93
Florence Special	2860.51
HP Miller	12853.48
Petty Cash	50.00
Special Memorial Account	278.33
Worm Account	1112.06
	41265.48

INCOME

Copier Revenue	305.00
Gift Received	1061.00
Interest Income	1283.32
State Appropriations	1823.00
Town Appropriation	36409.24
Total Income	40881.56

EXPENSES		
Bank Charge	15.00	
Dues	30.00	
Gifts	490.00	
Mandatory Purchasing	8749.30	
Payroll	24350.18	
Programs	746.99	
Repair & Maintenance	1800.86	
Supplies	1222.85	
Travel Reimbursement	16.34	
Utilities	2201.74	
TOTAL EXPENSES		39623.26
TOTAL INCOME-EXPENSES		1258.30

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Yoshen, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Westhampton School Committee meets at the Westhampton Elementary School at 7:00 every third Tuesday of the month. The committee members are Maureen Dempsey, Chair; David Antosz, Vice-Chair; Kathleen O'Connor, Secretary. Maureen Dempsey is the Hampshire Regional School Committee delegate and also is representative to the Administrative Advisory. David Antosz is a representative to the Hampshire Educational Collaborative. Kathleen O'Connor is a representative to the Regional Education/Business Alliance.

Under the state Education Reform Law, the Westhampton School Committee acts as a board of directors for the town's elementary school. Its primary responsibilities are to set local education policy and to hire, supervise and evaluate the superintendent. The superintendent, in turn, is responsible to hire and supervise the principal, and the principal has the same responsibility for the building staff. General spending levels, statewide educational policy and to an increasingly extent, the curriculum, are established by the State Board of Education. The committee remains responsible for the budget, contract negotiations with the teachers association and for the local policy decisions.

There have been many changes at Westhampton Elementary School this year. Technology education has been enhanced with the establishment of a computer laboratory and subsequent hiring of a part time computer teacher. We have also expanded the school nurse's position to full time. Preschool services have been increased with the addition of a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant and a Speech and Language Therapist. The fully integrated preschool program services special needs and typical children. Additional grant funding has also enabled us to offer a two day a week afternoon preschool program that started in January.

Curriculum development and the updating of instructional materials continue to be a priority. We were able to purchase new textbooks in Social Studies and Mathematics this year.

At the end of the school year after more than 60 years combined of dedicated service, grade three teacher, Virginia Brown, and grade four teacher, Joyce Piper, will retire.

The Westhampton Elementary School continues to be

utilized by numerous youth and community groups during non-school hours.

We are also very appreciative of the ongoing support of the P.T.O. and the many volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen O'Connor, Secretary
Maureen Dempsey, Chair
David Antosz, Vice Chair

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2000

October 1 enrollment at the Elementary School:

GRADE	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Preschool	16	16	18
Kindergarten	23	15	18
Grade 1	15	23	17
Grade 2	20	17	22
Grade 3	22	18	19
Grade 4	23	21	19
Grade 5	25	23	20
Grade 6	24	24	21
Westhampton Total	168	157	154

October 1 enrollment of students in other elementary settings:

Charter Schools	3	3	2
Schools of choice	0	0	0
Home-schooled	0	0	0
Private schools	13	11	10

October 1 enrollment of students in secondary schools:

Hampshire Regional	115	113	109
Vocational Schools	15	13	12
Private schools	17	10	8
Total Students K-12	331	307	307

Personnel employed by the School Department in 2000:

Sara Hunt	Preschool teacher
Theresa Flynn	Aide
Lynn Kurowski	Occup. therapist asst.
Anna Lee Lipman	Computer teacher
Jenny Pawlishen	Grade Six teacher
Heather Quinn	Preschool asst. teacher
Cynthia Tobin	Cafeteria supervisor
Michael Trombley	Custodian
Lynn Vesely	Speech pathologist

Personnel who left the employ of the School Department in 2000:

Greg Joanides	Custodian
Cecile Lampson	Food services staff
Dale Kasal	Foreign language teacher
Joanne Moynahan	Grade Six teacher
Susan Patten	Aide
Jennifer Reagan	Aide

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Elementary Appropriation	772460.00
Grant reimbursement	6784.23
Encumbered from FY99	1967.74
	781211.97
Total Expenses	-770684.10
Encumbered to FY01	7608.52
Balance closed to Revenue	2919.35

VOCATIONAL

Vocational Appropriation	141168.00
Expended transportation	-12700.00
Expended tuition	-89893.10
Total Expenditures	102593.10
Balance	38574.90

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPENDITURES

Administration	60757.87
Instructional	422772.56
Instructional - Special Education	132904.21
Support Services	67266.22
Pupil Transportation	24253.00
Pupil Transportation- Special Education	3970.00
Food Services	7134.19
Employer Retirement Contribution	1696.00
Maintenance	49930.05
	770684.10

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

New Hingham Regional Elementary School students in the **Chesterfield-Goshen** Regional District now enjoy many activities to augment a sound academic program. There is an after-hours childcare program as well as school and town-supported after-school programs such as bowling, basketball, clubs, Scout meetings, and even Little League competition. Town civic and social groups and municipal boards are encouraged to use the beautiful facility for meetings and special events. School wide assembly programs have been refined to correlate with academic curricular areas. During recess times, students now have an open arts studio two days a week. The new music teacher offers instrumental band lessons and a chorus program to broaden our existing music program.

Faculty members completed writing professional development five-year plans, in accordance with state guidelines, and are learning new and better ways to strengthen language arts skills through writing and thinking skills across the curriculum. New Hingham teachers are aligning their own curricula with Massachusetts frameworks, and developing rubrics for more accurately assessing student progress and understanding. Special education staff members have had extensive workshops on new laws and regulations, and ways to take advantage of technology in preparing and monitoring individual student educational plans. Members of the School Council were trained in writing school goals, taking advantage of a program offered by the Regional Education and Business Alliance. This will mark the second year that measurable, observable education goals will be promoted by the Council to guide the school improvement effort.

The theme this year for the William E. Norris School in **Southampton** has been "Creating a Safe and Caring Learning

Community." Nearly two dozen teachers and support staff were trained in Responsive Classroom teaching techniques, supported by state grant funds. A full-day kindergarten program has become a reality, with four classes of students formed. Along with a new kindergarten teacher, a new special needs position was added to work with students who have more significant learning disabilities.

Work to align the school's curriculum with state curriculum frameworks has focused on literacy. A School wide Literacy Collaborative grant from the Department of Education is supporting training of teachers in reading and writing instruction. There has been some improvement on state assessment scores in Math and Science and Technology but scores in English/Language Arts confirm the need for more professional development. A School Safety Team has worked to prepare a Crisis Plan for use in responding to threats and potentially harmful situations. The comprehensive plan includes prevention, intervention, and "post-vention" planning. The entire staff, along with town safety officials, had input into the plan. Yet another grant helps support this training and planning work.

Special thanks go to the Southampton Lions Club and Southampton Womans Club for their support of special projects and to community members for supporting the outstanding Nature's Classroom program. Parents also supported the school through fundraising dedicated to particular initiatives. Book fair profits resulted in the addition of hundreds of books to the school library and to classrooms. A spring bulb sale funded work on a garden in the front of the school, and installation of an in-ground sprinkler system. Many parents and students spent a hot day in May planting the garden. An after-school programs started last year was "Mad Science," an eight-week tuition-based experience with scholarships supporting all needy students. An arts program was held in collaboration with Child and Family Services of

Pioneer Valley, Inc., and funded partly by a Safe and Drug-Free Schools grant. It is hoped that more after-school activities will be developed and offered for children, and that volunteer support from adults in the community will be forthcoming.

The focus for 2000 at the **Westhampton** Elementary School has been to align curriculum, broaden technology use for students, and strengthen support services beyond the academic core program. There have been numerous after-school programs, music enrichment, instrumental lessons and drama, writing workshops and science explorations offered. A technology mini-lab has been created in the library. A part-time resource teacher works with students and staff to better use technology in all areas of teaching and learning.

In contrast to recent years when there were few staffing changes, there were many changes in 2000. Sixth grade teacher Joanne Moynahan retired after 24 years of service, and cafeteria manager Cecile Lampson also retired. A new preschool program serving 17 children ages 3 and 4 began in September, staffed by a lead teacher, assistant teacher, speech and language therapist and certified occupational teaching assistant. Nurse time and custodial services were also increased.

In **Williamsburg**, the School Council has focused its work on various aspects of program planning for the schools. Its members are parents Mary Ramsay, Victoria Weed, and Gabrielle Blaustein, teachers Johanna Korpita, M.J. Long and Sherrie Marti, and School Committee member Michelle Morris. Principal Venne is the Council co-chair.

Sponsored by the school department and led by Carl Warner, an "After School Club" is off to a strong start, with more than 20 students participating regularly. Students have the option to participate in various activities three to five days a week, and

academic enrichment programs are also being planned. This program replaces the former Horizons after-school childcare program. Also, a full day kindergarten program was started in the fall of 2000, with 17 students assigned to each class.

An Investigations Mathematics program is being used as a guide for developing curriculum scope and sequence. Students in every grade from kindergarten to grade 5 will carry out no less than two such "investigations," and a middle school version of investigations is being extended to the sixth grade level. Several more teachers were trained to score the MCAS language arts writing assessment for the Department of Education. A scoring rubric used by the state is integrated into grades 4-6, and English-language arts assessment at the primary level has been improved through use of a Diagnostic Reading Assessment, used with every student in grades one to three. The staff worked with a district development committee in science on a content scope and sequence science that is inquiry-based. It is expected this will move to completion in 2001. In addition, several health units were written this year.

The PTO has been revitalized through work of many parents. Donna McGill is leading efforts to help support students by providing supplies for classrooms and coordinating after-school events for families. A major success was the introduction of a "Family Science Night," coordinated by parent Jim Downing, which drew more than 200 visitors and more than 30 aspiring student scientists.

The Selectboard has appointed a School Building Committee to use previous reports and examine Williamsburg's school facility needs related to current and future school programs and to bring recommendations to the town for action. Members of the Committee are Alice Walker, Sherrie Marti, Michelle Morris, Joe Larkin, Jeffrey Gelbard, Donna McGill and Gordon Allen. The roof of the Helen E. James School building

was upgraded in 2000 by removing gravel, adding insulation, and installing a full membrane roofing system, which has a 15-year warrantee. General repair work was done to the elevator and the building's decorative work. Also, exterior wood surfaces of the Anne T. Dunphy School were given a fresh coat of paint last spring.

There were more staffing changes during the year 2000 at **Hampshire Regional High School** than perhaps at any other time in the school's 30-year history. It was a very hectic summer of screening committees and interviews. Eighteen new teachers were hired to replace or add to a classroom instructional staff of 68 teachers, a 26 percent turnover in staff. The other significant change was in leadership: capping more than three decades of a teaching and administrative career with nine years as Principal of Hampshire Regional High School, Carolyn Costain retired. Her successor, Carl Ostrowski, brings a 27-year record of administrative experience to the job.

Among numerous improvements marking this year of change were some adjustments, innovations or revisions in standards, routines or policies, such as reinstating a morning homeroom period for better communication and administrative organization, providing a summer school program for students to improve and better prepare for the MCAS testing in mathematics, aligning teacher goals to include greater student participation and performance, and alignment of state and school with classroom instruction and assessment. In accordance with new state mandates, a School Accommodation Plan was reviewed and endorsed by members of the School Council. This Plan incorporates a School Assistance Team whose role it is to regularly review student needs and recommend curricular and program modifications for low-performing students.

The principal and staff set new guidelines for out-of-school academic programs, including dual enrollment, early

college programs, alternative schools and work-study program. At the urging of the principal, the School Committee raised four-year graduation requirements to 22.5 credits for the Class of 2004 and 21.5 credits for the Class of 2003, and included a community service component: all students must now devote 30 total hours of community service to earn a diploma. Several faculty members participated in a professional development program in mentoring sponsored by the Regional Educational and Business Alliance (REBA). Hampshire also has plans to reorganize internally and establish a Visual and Performing Arts Department with Art, Music, and English (Drama) input. Furthermore, nine new courses were added to the high school program to offer more electives and four middle school courses.

The Principal implemented Renaissance, an incentive/recognition program for students, to improve school climate, acknowledge accomplishments, and influence improved student performance. After-school activities were increased to include intramural soccer. basketball, baseball, and softball, a school newspaper, chess club and middle school math-tech club called "SIM City."

The Hampshire Regional Building Committee, using funds to employ an architect for a feasibility phase, developed two different plans for voter consideration during the summer and fall of 2000. The more ambitious $40M plan to build a separate grade 6-8 middle school on school property was eventually abandoned as too costly. In its place, the Building Committee proposed a $26M renovation/expansion of the existing building, with additions for a new auditorium and science rooms. The School Committee's attempt to borrow design funds for the next stage was not approved by all towns, and a second attempt was scheduled for early in 2001. It was verified that 72 percent state reimbursement for the project would be extended if town support was secured and a project plan filed by June 30, 2001.

Staff and administrators at the Superintendent's office serve five separate, single-school districts, collectively administering five separate budgets totaling more than $13 million dollars. Former Hampshire Regional health education teacher Mary Phelan has joined the central administrative staff as the five-district Health Education Coordinator, replacing Janice Doppler. From offices at the high school, central administrators applied for and received more than $ 1.1 million dollars worth of state, federal and private-source grant funds in 2000 to assist schools in each district with auxiliary resources, instructional initiatives and professional development.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Erickson
Superintendent

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

After completing nine years with distinction as Hampshire Regional School principal, Carolyn Costain retired at the end of the 1999–2000 school year. She was the second principal in the history of the school. Carolyn Costain was replaced by Carl Ostrowski, an experienced Massachusetts public-school administrator. A graduate of Smith Academy in Hatfield and Westfield State College, Ostrowski holds a masters degree from the University of Massachusetts. He served as principal of Westfield High School for 12 years. He is also an adjunct instructor in school administration at Westfield State College.

Five years ago, the Hampshire Regional School Committee appointed a Building Needs Committee. The resulting Building Needs Report was presented in June 1997; it was revised and clarified in December 1997. To address the

identified building needs, the School Committee appointed the Hampshire Building Committee in October 1998. Chaired by Steve Maiorano, the Building Committee has met regularly since then. The advice of architects was sought, a meeting was held with the Massachusetts School Building Assistance Bureau (SBAB) of the Department of Education, and the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) was commissioned to make enrollment projections for a decade into the future. As I reported in last year's report, each town gave permission for the district to borrow $100,000 for architectural services for the preliminary planning phase.

The issue of whether grade six should be incorporated into the building plans surfaced at the 1998 meeting with SBAB, and was discussed both by the School Committee and by the Building Committee. There was both strong grass-roots support and strong grass-roots opposition to what turned out to be a controversial subject. It was addressed on May 17, 2000 at a well-attended joint meeting of Hampshire Regional School Committee, the four elementary school committees, the Hampshire Building Committee, faculty, parents and town officials. Discussions continued throughout the summer, and the issue was a major subject discussed on October 18 at a meeting of the Hampshire Municipal Advisory Committee (HMAC, composed of representatives of the select boards, finance committees and school district officials from all five towns). The next week, Hampshire Regional School Committee voted to restrict the expansion and renovation project to grades 7 through 12.

Throughout 2000, the Hampshire Regional building expansion and renovation project was in a publicly highly visible phase. The Springfield architectural firm of Tessier Associates was hired in February 2000. Hampshire Regional School Committee, on October 2 and October 23 (and again on January 18, 2001), voted to borrow $2.8 million for the design phase of a one-building, grade 7 through 12, $29 million project. With the concurrence of the five towns, a portion of these funds will permit development of detailed architectural plans to be submitted to voters in Spring 2001.

There continues to be statewide controversy regarding the requirement that a student pass the MCAS examinations to qualify for a Massachusetts high school diploma. Hampshire Regional School continues to be committed to maintaining our traditional goals of a balanced, broad and humane education for

every student, and also to be sure that every student is ready for whatever tests the state mandates. Compared to other schools in Massachusetts, we are providing these high-quality educational opportunities at bargain costs to the taxpayers.

Respectfully submitted,

George Fleck, Chair
Hampshire Regional School Committee

SCHOOL REPORT FOR HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL DISTRICT

Student enrollment by town, as of October 1, 2000:

Grade	Chesterfield	Goshen	Southampton	Westhampton	Williamsburg	Totals
7	14	7	82	22	29	154
8	15	12	69	17	30	143
9	9	7	54	17	22	128
10	15	11	56	24	22	128
11	14	9	75	14	15	127
12	18	12	62	15	19	126
Choice	6	3	11	11	19	50
Charter	0	1	3	3	6	13
Totals	91	62	412	123	162	850

Assessment Percentages by town:

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Chesterfield	10.993	11.260	11.436	11.580	11.439
Goshen	6.569	6.802	7.045	7.259	7.372
Southampton	49.674	50.039	50.161	50.182	49.679
Westhampton	14.441	13.94	13.917	14.033	14.031
Wiliamsburg	18.322	17.959	17.440	16.946	17.479

Personnel Employed by the District during 2000:

Dara Adams-Smith	Music teacher
Katherine Barnes	Foreign language teacher
Teresa Barut	Mathematics teacher
Laura Bean	Aide
Karl Borowski	Custodian
Geoffrey Casey	Social studies teacher
Mark Cavallon	Business teacher
Brenda Childs	Food services staff
Grayson DeWitt	Social studies teacher
Julie Flahive	Mathematics teacher
Margi Gregory	Special education teacher
Alexis Jones	Aide
Natalie Landry	Health teacher
Dawn Liimatainen	Matron
Daniel Moynahan	English teacher
Carl Ostrowski	Principal
Thomas Pereira	Aide
Vicki Rizos	Aide
Dena Roy	Aide
Joseph Silverman	School Psychologist
Roberta Smith	Special education teacher
Rebecca Taylor	English teacher
Michael Tiskus	Science teacher
Katherine Torrey	Aide
Martin Touchette	Social studies teacher
Betsy Unger	English teacher
Desi Vega	Physical education teacher
Lynn Vesely	Speech pathologist
Heather Watilisz	Aide

Personnel who left the employ of the District in 2000:

Virginia Ahart	Social studies teacher
Margaret Brown	Special education teacher
Diana Chira	Special education teacher
Carolyn Costain	Principal
Michael Delpercio	Science teacher
Caryl Finn	Reading teacher
Danielle Godin	Aide
Humilia Gougeon	Mathematics teacher
Karen Guiel	English teacher

Ralph Hancewicz	English teacher
Gregory Hungerford	Aide
Claire Loud	Guidance secretary
David Magee	Mathematics teacher
Anna Megyesi	Foreign language teacher
James Murphy	Social studies teacher
Cindy Myers	Aide
Karen Pawlishen	Physical education teacher
Casey Ravenhurst	Science teacher
Sheldon Ross	Music teacher
Michael Simpson	Business teacher
Patricia Warren	Food services staff

Based upon combined preschool, special education, vocational school and regular day student enrollment as of October 1, the five cooperating school systems share the cost of employing the Superintendent and central office staff.

Percent share, by District

District	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Chest/Goshen K-6	10.5	10.8	10.5
Southampton, PK-6	29.1	29.5	29.9
Westhampton, K-6	9.1	8.7	8.9
Williamsburg, PK-6	12.0	12.5	12.3
Hampshire Reg. 7-12	39.2	38.5	38.4

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - FISCAL 2000

REVENUES

Assessments

Chesterfield	478604
Goshen	296460
Southampton	2028237
Westhampton	579796
Williamsburg	723600
Total Assessments	4106697

Intergovernmental	
Chapter 70	1985938
Transportation	310157
School Choice	256240
Charter School	28382
Total Intergovernmental	2580717
Interest and Other	
Interest	27210
Other	28816
Total Interest & Other	56026
TOTAL REVENUES	6743440
EXPENDITURES	
Administration	222848
Instructional	3093150
SPED instructional	679081
Support services	74252
Pupil Transportation	336717
SPED pupil transportation	123969
Student body activities	119688
Operation and Maintenance	387751
Retirement	183851
Employee insurance	441363
Health insurance retirees	14925
Other insurance	27037
Debt service	198068
Programs with other districts	444606
School choice/charter school tuition	267189
Professional Development	7962
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	6622457
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures/Transfers	120983
FUND BALANCE - BEGINGNING OF YEAR	(75323)
FUND DEFICIT - END OF YEAR	45660

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Freebourn, Treasurer

SALARIES

Fiscal 2001

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFCIALS		
Board of Selectman	Chairman	1200
	Others	1000
Board of Assessors	Chairman	2200
	Others	2000
Board of Health	Each (+$18/hr .perc)	300
Town Clerk		5125
Tax Collector		6494 plus fees
Treasurer		8200
Auditor		150
Moderator		150
School Committee	Chairman	180
	Others	150
APPOINTED OFFICIALS		
Accounting Officer		8200
Veterans Agent		550
Selectmen's Secretary		7500
Assessor's Secretary		1180
Clerk, Bd. Registrars		60
Building Inspector		4500
Wiring , Plumbing & Sanitation Inspectors		15/inpsection
Election Workers		6.00/hour
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
Grade1A		16.03/hour
Grade 1		15.03/hour
Grade 3		13.63/hour
Superintendent		45000
LANDFILL Caretaker		9.00/hour
LIBRARY Director		25480
	Children's Librarian	10.00/hour
	Custodian	8.32/hour
TOWN HALL Custodian		7.50/hour
POLICE CHIEF		13/hour
Officers – Regular		10.00 - 11.00/hour
	Court	15/hour
FIRE CHIEF		825
CEMETERY CARETAKER		4100

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2002

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	Voted F2001	Proposed 02
Counsel Fees	10000	10000
Moderator	150	150
Selectmen Salary	3200	3200
Selectmen Expense	3500	4100
Selectmen Secretary	7500	7725
Auditor Salary	150	150
Accounting Officer Salary	8200	8446
Accounting Office Expense	2050	1300
Audit (Article13)		6500
Assessor Salary	6200	6200
Assessor Expense	8790	3350
Assessor Secretary	1180	1200
Treasurer Salary	8200	8446
Treasurer Expense	4000	3200
Tax Collector Salary	6304	6494
Tax Collector Expense	3000	3000
Town Clerk Salary	5125	7000
Town Clerk Expense	3000	1850
Clerk, Board of Registrars	60	50
Conservation Commission	275	265
Planning Board Expense	200	200
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	2860	4500
Highway Salaries	130000	133500
Holiday Pay	4291	4435
Vacation Pay	3672	4413
Bridges & Railings	500	1000
Highway Materials	50000	50000
Road Machinery	20000	25000
Road Machinery Fuel	11500	12000
Snow Removal	42000	42000
Road Machinery Buildings	5500	8000
Highway Truck	79600	0
Sander (Article 14)		6500
Radios (Article 15)		2250
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS (Article 4)	643541	745607
HRHS Capital (Article 5)		7600
Vocational (Article 8)	134727	186447
Elementary School (Article 6)	836345	911324
Charter School (Article 7)	4589	5170
School Committee Salary	480	480

Library	45366	49903
VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	100	3000
Veterans Agent Salary	550	550
Memorial Day	100	100
Cultural Council	500	500
CEMETERIES		
Cemetery Salary	4100	4200
PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROP		
Police Department	33200	37185
Constable	1	1
Fire Chief	825	3000
Fire Department	9266	11420
Brush Truck (Article 16)		28000
Emergency Medical Services	300	300
Inspector Salary	7200	7200
Tree Warden Expense		1500
Civil Defense	1	1
Animal Inspector	500	500
Dog Officer	500	500
HEALTH & SANITATION		
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop. (Art.11)	4648	4648
Board of Health Salary	2900	2900
Board of Health Expense	50546	59250
Dumpsters (Article 17)		9000
Transfer Station Debt	33320	32445
DEBT & INTEREST		
Interest Short Term Debt	1	1
UNCLASSIFIED		
Insurance & Bonds	32000	32000
Town Offices	12650	13200
Council on Aging	1000	1000
Recreation	2000	2000
Historical	200	200
County Retirement	52388	53892
Council of Governments	10013	10013
HCOG Electric Program		676
Unemployment (Article 10)	9400	9600
Group Insurance	8500	103000
Medicare	7500	8500
Land Damage	1	1
Reserve Fund	5000	5000
TOTAL	2461674	2728507

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT
MAY 12, 2001

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 3: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L. which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2002, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2002, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Charter School Tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school expenses, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Westhampton Town's share of expenses of continued participation in the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds, due to the town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, voted in the Acts of 2001,or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for an audit of the town financial records, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for a sander for the Highway Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for radios for the Highway Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for a brush truck for the Fire Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, authorize the Treasurer, with approval of the Selectmen, to borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for two dumpsters for the Transfer Station, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to hear the report of the Highway Department Building Committee which has investigated the need for a new highway department building, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaw of the Town by replacing Section 7-11-1 under Section 11 Building Numbering as follows, or take any other action in relation thereto.

7-11-1 The Board of Selectmen is authorized to assign street numbers to all buildings located within the Town, which numbers shall thereafter be affixed by the owners on the house or mailbox or near the end of the driveway, in such a manner that said street numbers shall be plainly visible from the public or private way on which said structures are located. Numbers shall be 3" or larger and easily visible from both directions.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaw of the Town by changing all references to the "Board of Selectmen" to the "Selectboard", or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish a Task Force, composed of representatives of the Board of Health, Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Fire Department and Highway Department, to be charged with reviewing current regulations that apply to the Pine Island Lake area and making recommendations to ensure compliance with existing state and town resource protection and land use regulations, including an educational package for Pine Island Lake landowners, or take any other action in relation thereto.

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of the articles for the Annual Town Meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Meeting, May 12th.

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.